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SUBJECT: Food for Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation
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Excerpts from an address by Herbert H. Lehman, Director of the Office of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation Operations at commencement exercises of Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa., May 31, 1943.

"When the guns stop firing and peace once again pervades the world, the men and women who have suffered so much must not be forced to make decisions born of desperation, decisions which will threaten the ideals for which this war is being fought. Any plan for peace and a stable world order, no matter how nobly conceived or how wisely constructed, can well be foredoomed to failure if proposed while starvation, pestilence and suffering engulf most of the world....

"Before we can talk of peace and a permanent mechanism to secure it, we must first make certain that the nations, and the men, women and children who make up the nations are not driven by starvation and desperation to embrace ideas as horrible as those of the Axis which we are seeking to exterminate....

"In the initial stages which develop after our troops have expelled the Axis from territories of our allies, the primary problem will be one of emergency relief. We must be ready with staff, with plans, and with provisions to provide food to stop starvation....

"The livestock situation on the continent of Europe is so critical that there is reason to believe that shortages of draft animals to draw the plows will have an effect even more crippling than manpower shortages when the first crop of peace is ready to go in the ground. Livestock herds in general have decreased so materially that it is estimated that five or six years will be required to restore them to pre-war levels. Our statistics from Inter-Allied Committees in London show that by 1942 in Nazi occupied European countries, 11 million of a total of 46 million cattle had disappeared; 3 million of 10 million horses; 12 million of 28 million pigs; and 11 million of 35 million sheep. Many of the remaining livestock are diseased. There can be no question that in the initial period of relief, no time must be lost in institution of intensive programs to get crops into the ground, to utilize most effectively the draft animals that still remain and to begin re-building flocks and herds....

"In our initial operations, we are beginning to meet the physical needs of the people of North Africa. The Office of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation Operations, working through American Red Cross personnel in Algeria and French

Morocco, has been providing daily milk rations to 147 thousand children in those two areas. Utilizing the services of four members of the American Friends Service Committee, it has provided assistance and the necessities of life to numerous refugees as they were released from camps in Algeria and French Morocco. In Tunisia, the OFRRO has been working under control of our armed forces in distributing an initial 10,000 tons of supplies in the centers of population where assistance was needed. These Tunisian relief activities were actually part of the military operation, conducted under the authority of the military whenever and wherever the United Nations commanders called upon us to lend a hand. In some respects this Tunisian operation may provide a pattern for what will be done to bring help to the 150 million people who dwell in the so-called 'fringe countries' of Europe when the United Nations armies land on the Continent to bring the Axis to a final accounting."

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